

A few verses in Zikorean Poetry Structure

Defining Ziket and Zinet

A Ziket has two poetic lines, the first line should contain 1 to 8 syllables and the second line should be of 1 to 5 syllables or vice versa. Ziket can be written in unrhymed or rhymed poetry.

A Zikelite consists of two or more than two Zikets.

A Zinet has one poetic line that has 1 to 5 syllables to deliver a theme.

A Zinlite consists of two or more than two Zinets.

A Zeelite consists of two or more than two Zikets followed by one or more than one Zinets, depending on the mood and revelation.

Source:: <https://allpoetry.com/topic/show/269075133-How-to-Write-Zikorean-Poetry>

Effort made to define the meaning of a few old or obsolete words from English *vocabularies* in the Zikorean Poetry Structure.

Hope you will enjoy reading

~~~~~

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Chthonic**

**‘Chthonic’ is an  
adjective**

**Means of or relating to the  
underworld**

**This 19th-century word begins  
with series of two**

**digraphs that don’t typically  
hook up.**

**In fact, the other English word  
in established use**

**that begins with this same series  
of letters is the**

**variant of ‘chthonic’,  
‘chthonian’.**

**Both have their origin in the  
Greek**

**‘chthon’- or ‘chthōn’,  
meaning "earth."**

**A note on pronunciation  
the ‘ch’ is silent**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Squush**

**‘Squush’ is a  
verb**

**It means to ‘squash or crush  
(something)’**

**or, to ‘emit a sucking  
sound’**

**It's not that two u's in a row  
are unheard of**

**examples like ‘continuum’,  
‘vacuum’ exist**

**but ‘squush’ has so little else  
in it**

**that it's sure to confuse  
others.**

**The word is a mid-20th  
century term**

**that was coined as an  
alteration**

**of squish by some lexical  
rapscallion.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Kickshaw**

**‘Kickshaw’ is a  
noun**

**It means a ‘fancy dish  
delicacy’**

**It has just 2 vowels in a  
8 letters word**

**the jaunty-sounding kickshaw is  
a reasonable**

**selection for a good bout of  
hangman.**

**The word has the added  
benefit of**

**being a debauching of  
French**

**it's from a misunderstanding  
of the French phrase**

**‘quelque chose’, meaning  
"something"**

**as a single plural  
word.**

**(The l was unpronounced in  
French at the time.)**

**The ‘cksh’ combo is also  
available**

**for exploitation in ‘buckshot’  
and ‘rickshaw’.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

| <b>Ytterbium</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Ytterbium is a soft metallic element</b></p> <p><b>of the rare-earth group that occurs especially</b></p> <p><b>with other rare earth elements in minerals</b></p> <p><b>and that has few commercial uses</b></p> <p><b>While ytterbium may look like</b></p> <p><b>the linguistic concoction of a scalawag,</b></p> <p><b>it's in fact a real word.</b></p> <p><b>Ytterbium named after the town of Ytterby</b></p> | <p><b>near Stockholm in Sweden, and makes up fourth element</b></p> <p><b>to be named after this town, the others being</b></p> <p><b>of course yttrium, terbium and erbium.</b></p> <p><b>The first concentrate of ytterbium was</b></p> <p><b>in 1878 was obtained by Swiss</b></p> <p><b>chemist Jean-Charles Galissard de Marignac</b></p> <p><b>and named by him for the town of Ytterby, Sweden</b></p> <p><b>where it (and the first discovered rare-earth element,</b></p> <p><b>yttrium) was found.</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Antapology**

**Antalogy is response to  
an apology,**

**possibly positive or  
negative**

**(Source: Webster's New  
International**

**Dictionary, 2nd Ed.,  
1934)**

**This word appears to  
most often**

**occur in religious  
contexts.**

**Reference found in 'A response  
to an**

**apology quotations  
1646,**

**The First and Second Part of  
Gangræna**

**by Thomas  
Edwards**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bovarism**

**Bovarism is a conception  
of oneself**

**as other than one is to the  
extent that one's**

**general behaviors  
conditioned or**

**dominated by the  
conception**

**It's an exaggerated  
especially**

**glamorized estimate of  
oneself;**

**We all know someone whose  
idea of**

**himself/herself doesn't quite  
match reality.**

**The word comes from Madame  
Bovary,**

**the principal character in  
the 19th-century**

**novel Madame Bovary, by  
Gustave Flaubert.**

**It was published in  
1856.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Barleyhood**

**Barleyhood is of Scottish  
origin**

**Now it is quite  
obsolete**

**Defined as "bad temper caused  
by drinking"**

**(Webster's New International  
Dictionary,**

**the 2nd Edition,  
1934)**

**This word may be spelled in  
various ways**

**including barlichood and  
barlickhood.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



| <b>Dolorifuge ~ Doloriferous</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Dolorifuge</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Doloriferous</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Dolorifuge is formed by combining</b></p> <p><b>the Latin "dolor," meaning "pain,"</b></p> <p><b>with the English suffix "-fuge," related to</b></p> <p><b>the Latin "-fugus," describing a noun</b></p> <p><b>that removes or dispels something.</b></p> <p><b>Meaning something which mitigates or removes grief.</b></p> <p><b>1891, Thomas Hardy</b></p> <p><b>Tess of the d'Urbervilles, James R. Osgood,</b></p> <p><b>McIlvaine and Co., Vol 1, page 86, London</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> | <p><b>Origin in British English</b></p> <p><b>Medieval Latin doloriferus,</b></p> <p><b>alteration of Late Latin dolorifer,</b></p> <p><b>from Latin dolor + -i- + -fer - ferous</b></p> <p><b>Doloriferous is an Obsolete word</b></p> <p><b>Means causing pain or sadness, dolorific</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Embox**

**Embox is a  
verb**

**It means to enclose in or  
as if in a box**

**All these years we've been saying  
"put it in a box"**

**when we could have been using  
the simpler,**

**More elegant "embox  
it."**

**It dates back 16th  
century.**

**None knows why this term isn't  
in popular use.**

**the slightly younger contrasting  
term**

**unbox ("to remove from a box"),  
says anything**

**about a consumer  
society**

**willfully and woefully  
ignorant**

**of the efforts of those who toil  
unseen**

**to make our consumption  
seamless  
~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Rivulose**

**The word is Latin in  
origin,**

**tracing back to rivulus  
meaning "rivulet,"**

**and the English suffix -ose,  
meaning**

**"possessing the qualities  
of.**

**it is an  
adjective**

**Means marked with irregular,  
narrow, crooked lines**

**There's no reason the scientists  
should have**

**exclusive use of such a good  
word as rivulose**

**Something that is rivulose is  
marked with**

**lines reminiscent of those made  
by a rivulet**

**—that is, a small stream—as  
viewed from far above.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Presbyopia**

**Presbyopia is a rare  
word,**

**It is the loss of clear close-up  
vision**

**that happens when eye's lens become  
less flexible.**

**It's late 18th century word  
modern Latin,**

**The word traces back to the  
Greek presbys,**

**meaning "old  
man."**

**the term "presbyopia" comes  
from a Greek word**

**which means "old  
eye."**

**When presbyopia sets in  
one probably needs**

**two things: reading  
glasses, and**

**facing the fact that one is  
middle-aged.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Meshuggener**

**A meshuggener is a  
foolish person**

**The word came to English  
from Yiddish,**

**It comes from the Yiddish  
meshugener**

**which in turn derives from  
meshuge,**

**Meshuggener is an  
adjective**

**that's synonymous with crazy  
or foolish.**

**English speakers have used  
the adjective form,**

**meshuga or meshugge, to mean  
"foolish"**

**since the late  
1800s;**

**People dubbed foolish folk  
meshuggeners**

**since at least  
1900.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Geminate**

**The word originated from  
Latin early 15c**

**from Latin geminatus  
"twinning, equal,"**

**Being used as a verb  
from 1630s.**

**It means consisting of  
identical**

**adjacent speech  
sounds**

**In Medical terms, it means a  
doubling,**

**duplication, repetition.  
especially**

**a formation of two teeth from  
a single tooth germ.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Mast**

**In 1735 it  
was first used**

**The forest ecology kind  
of mast**

**comes from the Old English word  
mæst**

**which shares an ancestor with the  
Old High German word**

**mast, meaning "food" or  
"mast,**

**It's probably related to  
the Old English word**

**mete, source of our word meat, which  
originally**

**meant simply  
"food."**

**Mast is the fruit of forest trees  
and shrubs,**

**such as acorns and other  
nuts**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

| <b>Macot</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The ancestor of ‘mascot’ is the Latin word</b></p> <p><b>‘Masca’ which in the Middle Ages meant "witch."</b></p> <p><b>‘Masca’ was borrowed as ‘masco’ into Provençal—</b></p> <p><b>a dialect of southern France —and, later, as</b></p> <p><b>mascoto , a diminutive form of the</b></p> <p><b>Provençal noun that was used to mean "charm" /"magic spell."</b></p> <p><b>In the latter half of the 19th century,</b></p> <p><b>the diminutive became part of modern French as</b></p> <p><b>‘mascotte’, meaning "good luck charm,"</b></p> <p><b>and was popularized in the title of the</b></p> <p><b>operetta ‘La Mascotte’ composed</b></p> <p><b>by Edmond Audran in 1880.</b></p> | <p><b>In this operetta ‘la mascotte’ is</b></p> <p><b>a beautiful, young woman named ‘Bettina’</b></p> <p><b>whose beneficent influence brings victories</b></p> <p><b>to the army of the prince of Pisa</b></p> <p><b>The appearance of mascot in English followed soon</b></p> <p><b>afterward, when it was used generically</b></p> <p><b>to mean "a person, animal, or object</b></p> <p><b>held to bring good luck."</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |



| <b>Madstone</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The ‘madstone’ is a 19th-century</b></p> <p><b>American version of the ‘bezoar stone’</b></p> <p><b>(‘Bezoar’ is derived from Persian ‘pād-zahr’</b></p> <p><b>meaning "protecting against poison.")</b></p> <p><b>Both are hard substances formed in the</b></p> <p><b>digestive system of an animal that</b></p> <p><b>according to folklore, can counteract</b></p> <p><b>the effects of poison (as from the bite of a</b></p> <p><b>venomous snake or a rabid dog)</b></p> <p><b>The most common madstone is a solidified hair ball</b></p> <p><b>formed in the stomach of a deer</b></p> | <p><b>(a bezoar is more likely formed inside</b></p> <p><b>the stomach of a goat or an antelope)</b></p> <p><b>The common belief is that the stone comes</b></p> <p><b>from the stomach of a white deer</b></p> <p><b>People used madstones in two different ways</b></p> <p><b>By far most common usage in North Carolina</b></p> <p><b>was the application of the stone to a wound,</b></p> <p><b>where it adhered, exerting some suction,</b></p> <p><b>until it absorbed all the poison in the wound</b></p> <p><b>or all the poison it could hold.</b></p> <p><b>American traveler Henry Knight</b></p> <p><b>gives us a description of the stone in a letter</b></p> <p><b>from 1816, which he sent while in Virginia</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

| <b>Juju</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Juju is a West African word</b></p> <p><b>It's from the Hausa language</b></p> <p><b>of northern Nigeria that appears in English</b></p> <p><b>in the late 1800s and refers to a type</b></p> <p><b>of spiritual magic that can be used for</b></p> <p><b>benevolent / nefarious purposes.</b></p> <p><b>The magic operates on the principle</b></p> <p><b>that spiritual energy can be</b></p> <p><b>imparted to objects.</b></p> <p><b>These objects are called jujus</b></p> <p><b>and are thought to ward off evil;</b></p> <p><b>they can also be infused with energy</b></p> <p><b>that brings good luck or misfortune to a person.</b></p> | <p><b>In the mid-20th century, another juju,</b></p> <p><b>derived from another language,</b></p> <p><b>Yoruba, appears in English.</b></p> <p><b>It refers to a style of West African music</b></p> <p><b>that blends Christian congregational</b></p> <p><b>singing, Yoruba vocal and percussion</b></p> <p><b>traditions, and assorted African and</b></p> <p><b>Western popular genres.</b></p> <p><b>Juju's heyday was in the 1980s</b></p> <p><b>when world music had a surge in popularity.</b></p> <p><b>Also in the mid-20th century,</b></p> <p><b>juju was heard as a slang term</b></p> <p><b>(developed through reduplication</b></p> <p><b>of the digraph "ju" in marijuna)</b></p> <p><b>for a marijuana cigarette.</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

| Jinx                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Etymologists aren't exactly sure</b></p> <p><b>how the word jinx developed</b></p> <p><b>The word is suspected to be an alteration</b></p> <p><b>of jynx, the name of the wryneck woodpecker</b></p> <p><b>that populates Eurasia and Africa.</b></p> <p><b>The bird is so named for its peculiar</b></p> <p><b>behavior of slyly writhing its neck when alarmed.</b></p> <p><b>In medieval times, this odd bird was thought to have</b></p> <p><b>occult powers and was used in witchcraft, and magic.</b></p> | <p><b>jynx got associated with bad luck.</b></p> <p><b>Etymologically, this sounds convincing—however,</b></p> <p><b>evidence of the first use of the word</b></p> <p><b>doesn't corroborate this theory.</b></p> <p><b>Use of jinx in English dates to the beginning</b></p> <p><b>of the 20th century as an American slang</b></p> <p><b>term in sports—in particular, baseball.</b></p> <p><b>Jinx means a person or thing that brings bad luck.</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Jimmies**

**Jimmies are very small pieces  
of coloured sugar**

**or chocolate used as a  
decoration**

**on the top of cakes  
etc.**

**The word is from the early 19th  
century**

**Jimmies is the most popular  
term for**

**chocolate sprinkles in the  
Philadelphia,**

**Boston and New England  
regions**

**The origin of the name  
jimmies is**

**uncertain but it was first  
documented in**

**1930, as a topping  
for cake.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Frappe**

**The name frappé comes  
from French**

**where it describes drinks chilled  
with ice**

**Beginning in the 19th  
century,**

**variety of cold coffee  
drinks named**

**café frappé (à la glace) are  
documented**

**some similar to slushes  
others**

**more like iced  
coffee**

**verb frapper which means "to hit"  
or "to strike"**

**in the majority of its  
uses,**

**but can also mean "to chill,  
to ice"**

**when used for drinks (like  
chilling wine)**

**Ultimately, the word came to  
be used**

**for a milkshake, and when used with  
this meaning today,**

**often the accent mark is  
dropped,**

**giving us frappe  
(pronounced /frap/).**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Phylactery**

**Name phylactery is  
derived**

**from the Greek phylakterion,  
meaning amulet.**

**Recorded since circa  
1380,**

**Middle English philaterie,  
either from**

**Old French filatiere  
(12th c), or**

**via Medieval Latin  
philaterium**

**an alteration of Late Latin  
phylacterium**

**("reliquary"), from Ancient Greek  
phulaktérion,**

**means "safeguard  
amulet")**

**In Judaism, phylactery  
refers to**

**one of two small, leather, cube  
-shaped cases**

**containing scriptural  
passages written**

**on parchment which are worn as  
reminders of God**

**and of the obligation to  
keep the Law**

**during daily life**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Mojo**

**"Mojo" first appeared in  
the 1920s**

**in the southern United  
States**

**from the Gullah word "moco"  
means (magic)**

**the Fulani word moco'o,  
"medicine man."**

**The word is related to the  
Gullah being**

**African-Americans spoke  
Creole**

**Gullah creole word moco, means  
"witchcraft, magic," and**

**Although mojo is magical  
word**

**of African voodoo roots  
that refers to**

**spells, hexes, or  
charms**

**Nowadays, mojo has more  
to do with working**

**personal charisma than with  
working magic.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

| <b>Majuscule</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The word majuscule comes from the Latin</b></p> <p><b>Latin majusculus meaning "rather large,"</b></p> <p><b>and has referred to large letters</b></p> <p><b>like capitals since the early 18th century.</b></p> <p><b>It means large lettering, either capital</b></p> <p><b>or uncial in which all the letters</b></p> <p><b>are the same height.</b></p> <p><b>We learned in elementary school</b></p> <p><b>that sentences start with a majuscule and</b></p> <p><b>end in a punctuation mark</b></p> | <p><b>Oh! during elementary education</b></p> <p><b>none spoke about the word majuscule</b></p> <p><b>Majuscule is contrasted with minuscule.</b></p> <p><b>That's right: that much-loved word</b></p> <p><b>for describing things very small began as a noun</b></p> <p><b>referring to a lowercase letter but went on</b></p> <p><b>to have a life wholly independent</b></p> <p><b>of written language while majuscule</b></p> <p><b>languished in obscurity</b><br/> <b>~X~</b></p> |



| <b>Mumbo jumbo</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Mumbo jumbo is something that's meaningless</b></p> <p><b>or confusing but pretends to make sense</b></p> <p><b>It's mid 18th century word</b></p> <p><b>(as Mumbo Jumbo, denoting a supposed</b></p> <p><b>African idol) of unknown origin;</b></p> <p><b>the current sense dates from the late 19th century.</b></p> <p><b>The history of mumbo jumbo</b></p> <p><b>can be traced back to Africa.</b></p> | <p><b>Etymologists speculate that it comes from the</b></p> <p><b>andinka word maamajomboo, the name for a masked</b></p> <p><b>dancer taking part in religious</b></p> <p><b>ceremonies; Early evidence</b></p> <p><b>of the word comes from Francis Moore</b></p> <p><b>who was a clerk with the Royal African</b></p> <p><b>Company in his book Travels into the Inland</b></p> <p><b>Parts of Africa, 1738s.</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Randkluft**

**Borrowing from German Randkluft  
from Rand ("edge**

**brink, rim") + Kluft ("cleft  
fissure, joint").**

**It comes from rand,  
meaning "rim,"**

**and kluft, meaning  
"crevice."**

**It is a fissure that  
separates**

**a moving glacier from its  
headwall rock**

**A randkluft or rimaye is the  
headwall**

**gap between a glacier or  
snowfield**

**and the adjacent rock face at  
the back**

**of the cirque or, more  
loosely**

**It is a chasm formed  
when**

**ice recedes from a mountainside  
or breaks**

**away from stationary  
ice**

**It is from German, randkluft  
is low**

**on vowels and has the  
unusual**

**internal kl in its  
favor.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Desiderium**

**Desiderius is a  
Latin given name,**

**Latin desiderium -  
can be**

**translated as "ardent desire"  
or "the longed-for".**

**Desiderium, defined as  
"an ardent desire**

**or longing; especially,  
a feeling of loss**

**or grief for something  
lost.**

**The feeling of  
longing.**

**It can also be described as  
a feeling of loss**

**only desiderium  
carries the**

**meaning of having feelings for  
something that we no**

**longer have and wish very much  
that we did.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

| Tessellation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Tessera comes from the Latin 'tessera'</b></p> <p><b>(same spelling and meaning)</b></p> <p><b>probably ultimately from the Greek word</b></p> <p><b>tessares meaning "four"</b></p> <p><b>Latin tilers (and admirers thereof)</b></p> <p><b>also used tessella as a diminutive</b></p> <p><b>of tessera, and it's this word that led</b></p> <p><b>eventually to the verb tessellate</b></p> <p><b>("to form into or adorn with mosaic")</b></p> <p><b>Origin of tessellation can be traced back to</b></p> <p><b>4,000 years BC, when the Sumerians used</b></p> <p><b>clay tiles to compose decoration</b></p> <p><b>features in their homes and temples</b></p> | <p><b>Escher referred to as the</b></p> <p><b>"father of modern tessellations,"</b></p> <p><b>He used geometric grids to form</b></p> <p><b>intricate interlocking designs</b></p> <p><b>His series Regular Division</b></p> <p><b>of the Plane (begun in 1936)</b></p> <p><b>is a collection of his tessellated</b></p> <p><b>drawings, many of which feature animals, Art,</b></p> <p><b>architecture hobbies, and other areas</b></p> <p><b>hold examples of tessellations</b></p> <p><b>found in our everyday surroundings.</b></p> <p><b>Specific examples include oriental</b></p> <p><b>carpets, quilts origami Islamic</b></p> <p><b>architecture</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Pumpernickel**

**Pumpernickel comes from  
the German words**

**pumpern ("to break wind") and  
Nickel ("goblin")**

**for indigestibility  
of the bread**

**German Pumpernickel is a  
traditional bread**

**Its made from coarse rye flour,  
giving it a**

**distinctive dark brown  
color.**

**Some German pumpernickel  
recipes**

**incorporate whole or white wheat  
flour, but**

**European pumpernickel  
bread usually**

**refers to bread made with  
rye flour only.**

**The OED currently states  
in**

**1756 it was  
first used in English**

**OED is Oxford English  
Dictionary.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Clock-watcher**

**Industrial revolution  
brought new ideas**

**about how to measure labor,  
productivity.**

**One of the technological  
inventions**

**that came along with factories  
and mechanized looms**

**was the presence of clocks and  
regular work hours**

**that's based only on the time of  
day**

**rather than the season or  
the weather**

**By the mid-1800s, a  
new word coined**

**It was clock-watcher that had been  
coined**

**to refer to employees who,  
in words of the OED**

**"overly keen not to work more"  
than the required hours.**

**Oxford English Dictionary  
stands for OED.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Egrotting**

**There are some words that show up  
in dictionaries.**

**This is especially true of  
the words**

**in early dictionaries of  
English**

**written in the 1600s  
and early**

**1700s, a time when  
a dictionary**

**sometimes seemed to include only  
esoteric words**

**that we've never heard of  
before,**

**mostly with Latin and Greek  
origins.**

**From the Latin word  
'ægrōtāre'**

**meaning "to be sick," an  
anglicized version**

**of the word, egrotting, was  
coined,**

**meaning "a feigned sickness,"  
presumably**

**feigned so as to avoid doing  
something**

**that required motivation or  
energy; like work.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Luskish**

**‘Lusk’ is an obsolete word  
in English**

**that may share distant  
roots with loiter;**

**as a verb it meant "to lie hid"  
or "to skulk"—**

**in other words, to avoid  
work.**

**‘Lusk’ is a  
noun**

**It came to mean "an idle/  
lazy fellow,"**

**and its derivative ‘luskish’  
means**

**"somewhat lazy" or  
"sluggish."**

**It's now considered  
archaic**

**but that perhaps only points  
to**

**the cunning success of a word  
that means**

**"hiding in order not to be  
put to work."**

**It's a word that describes  
its own usage.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Peevish**

**‘Peevish’ is marked by ill  
temper**

**‘Peevish’ comes from the slightly  
shorter**

**Middle English word ‘pevish’  
(means "spiteful")**

**Its first meaning begins in  
the 15th century**

**"querulous in temperament  
or mood"**

**(‘querulous’ means ‘complaining  
in a rather**

**petulant or whining  
manner’).**

**In addition to this and the  
"ill-tempered" sense**

**‘peevisish’ also means "perversely  
obstinate."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Oscitant**

**There are highbrow Latin-derived  
synonyms**

**for some of the basic English  
words that are used to**

**seem a bit more fancy, abstract,  
or humorous.**

**We can use osculate to mean  
kiss, for example**

**or masticate to mean  
chew**

**The word oscitant comes  
from the Latin verb**

**that means "to yawn," so  
oscitant means**

**"yawning with drowsiness" and by  
extension, "lazy."**

**It's a word that hasn't been much in  
use since**

**the late 1600s, but  
worthy to notice.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Lazybones**

**Lazybones is a word that might  
evoke childhood**

**—it's not much a diagnosis  
or accusation**

**as reminder to return to  
normal level of**

**energy and do chores or get  
ready for school.**

**In the 1600s it was  
used**

**as a word for a  
beggar**

**who used false wounds to gain  
sympathy**

**and by the 1700s  
it became the term**

**for a soldier who feigns sickness  
to avoid duty.**

**Soldiers who avoid work aren't  
just being lazy**

**—they're disobeying  
orders**

**A shirking soldier is called  
a malingerer**

**The word's origin is hazy,  
but may come**

**from a combination of the French  
words**

**'mal' which can mean 'bad', 'ill',  
or 'evil',**

**and 'heingre', meaning 'thin,  
emaciated'.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

| <b>Cantankerous</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>It's been speculated that cantankerous</b></p> <p><b>is a product of the Middle English contack,</b></p> <p><b>contack meaning "contention,"</b></p> <p><b>under the influence of a pair of words:</b></p> <p><b>rancorous and cankerous. Rancorous brings</b></p> <p><b>the anger and "bitter deep-seated ill will"</b></p> <p><b>(as rancor can be understood to mean).</b></p> <p><b>Origin of cantankerous is unclear</b></p> <p><b>it may be at least partly from Middle English</b></p> <p><b>contek 'dissension'), but ever since it first</b></p> | <p><b>appeared in plays from the 1770s,</b></p> <p><b>it's been a popular way to describe</b></p> <p><b>someone who is quarrelsome and disagreeable.</b></p> <p><b>Cantankerous may sound like one of the</b></p> <p><b>many fine 19th-century Americanisms</b></p> <p><b>(like snollygoster, hornswoggle and jimberjawed),</b></p> <p><b>but it is not.</b></p> <p><b>it has been in use since at least the 18th century,</b></p> <p><b>and early evidence suggests that it was in</b></p> <p><b>use in the UK prior to USA.</b></p> <p><b>~X~</b></p> |

## **Captious**

**Captious comes from the Middle  
French word captieux**

**which is from the Latin  
word captiosus**

**it means "fallacious or  
deceiving."**

**Originated in  
1400,**

**Captious shares a root  
with accept,**

**forceps, and nuncupate;  
all may be traced**

**in part to the Latin word  
capere ("to take")**

**Capere gave rise to captio,  
which Latin means**

**"deception" or "verbal  
quibble,"**

**which makes sense when  
considering**

**that one of the other meanings  
of captious is**

**"calculated to confuse  
entrap, or**

**entangle in  
argument."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Choplogic**

**Its first known use was in  
1533**

**it's a combination of 'Chop'  
and 'Logic'**

**Obsolete 'chop' means to exchange  
trade,**

**Chop from Middle English 'choppen'  
means 'to barter'**

**It's given to complex often  
erroneous**

**and absurd types of  
argumentation**

**Choplogic may look like it comes  
from describing**

**someone who likes to cut or  
sever**

**common meanings of chop) your  
logic,**

**Choplogic may also refer  
to "involved and**

**specious argumentation"  
or "an**

**absurdly argumentative  
person."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Agonistic**

**Agnostic is from Ancient  
Greek word**

**agōnistēs- (a-) 'without',  
and(gnōsis) 'knowledge'**

**it was used by Thomas Henry  
Huxley in a**

**speech at a meeting of the  
Metaphysical**

**Society in  
1869**

**to describe his philosophy,  
which rejects**

**all claims of spiritual or  
mystical knowledge.**

**Along the way, the word has  
taken on**

**additional meanings,  
including**

**the aforementioned  
"argumentative,"**

**"striving for effect," and "of,  
relating to,**

**or being aggressive or  
defensive**

**social interaction (such as  
fighting, fleeing, or**

**submitting) between  
individuals**

**usually of the same  
species."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Fustilugs**

**The word originated from  
Middle English**

**It comes from combining the  
words**

**fusty ("stale") and lug ("to carry  
something heavy").**

**Earliest documented use  
1607**

**Means an unattractive, grossly  
overweight person**

**Fustilugs is an obscure  
word that manages**

**to still be fairly self-  
explanatory.**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Cranky**

**Its late 18th century  
word**

**(in the sense 'sickly, in poor  
health')**

**It's perhaps from obsolete  
(counterfeit) crank**

**'a rogue feigning  
sickness'**

**Originated from Dutch or  
German krank 'sick'.**

**"cross-tempered, irritable,  
1807**

**Means easily irritated  
or annoyed**

**Jamieson's Scottish  
dictionary**

**(1825) has crank in  
a secondary sense**

**of "hard, difficult," as in crank  
word,**

**"a word hard to be  
understood;"**

**crank job, "a work attended  
with difficulty**

**requiring ingenuity  
in execution."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Nudiustertian**

**Whenever he was asked to say  
when it happened,**

**which date or day; same reply  
always he would say**

**why! 'twas 'day before  
yesterday'.**

**There's word little bizarre to say,  
interesting word**

**Little confusing, no foul  
play.**

**'Nudiustertian'- that's word  
to say**

**Nudiustertian was coined by  
Nathaniel Ward in**

**'The Simple Cbler of  
Aggawam**

**in America'; earliest  
documented**

**use (1647) is  
observed**

**The word originated from  
Latin**

**'nudius tertius'  
literally**

**means today is the third  
day.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Hawsehole**

**Its first Known Use in  
1664**

**It means a hole in the bow  
of a ship**

**through which a cable  
passes**

**Hawsehole is a nautical term  
for a small hole**

**in the hull of a ship through  
which hawsers passed**

**In the (British) Royal Navy,  
a man who had**

**risen from the lowest grade to  
officer**

**was said to have "come in at  
the hawsehole".**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Sirocco**

**A sirocco is a hot  
desert wind**

**that blows northward from the  
Sahara toward**

**the Mediterranean coast  
of Europe.**

**Broadly, it's used for hot,  
oppressive wind.**

**Sirocco derives from šurūq  
(Arabic), verbal**

**noun of šaraqa, related  
to East, aš-šarq.**

**various names for this wind in  
other languages**

**include: in Italian it's called  
scirocco (1610s)**

**In Sicilian it is called as  
sciroccu.**

**"hot dust-laden wind blowing  
over**

**southern Italy from the  
Libyan deserts,"**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Chunter**

**First recorded in  
1599**

**originally dialect  
(Midlands, N England)**

**chunter, chunder, chunner compare  
Scots channer**

**in same sense; expressive word of  
obscure origin.**

**Chunter is not to be confused  
with the Australian**

**slang verb chunder, meaning  
"to puke"**

**It's also not to be confused  
with punter,**

**a noun used chiefly in British  
English to refer**

**to a gambler (among other  
things)**

**Chunter simply means "to mutter"  
or "to grumble"**

**or to talk in a low  
articulate way**

**to mutter talk or grumble  
monotonously.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Fecket**

**Facket is of Scottish  
origin**

**It means a  
vest**

**If it didn't mean something as  
mundane as "vest,"**

**fecket might make a fine put-down  
along the lines of**

**flibbertigibbet—just as  
old-timey but**

**pithier and perhaps a bit  
edgier given**

**that fricative to  
start.**

**reference of this word found in  
writing of**

**Robert Burns, The Laddie's Dear  
Sel' (1798s)**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Zephyr**

**Zephuros was the god  
of the west wind and**

**the bringer of light and early  
spring breezes**

**Zephyr derives from his  
name.**

**Originated from late Old  
English zefferus,**

**refers personification  
of west wind, via**

**Latin from Greek zephuros  
'(god of the) west wind'.**

**It dates from the late  
17th century.**

**Use of zephyr in English might  
have received a**

**light push from William Shakespeare  
who used it in his**

**1611 play  
Cymbeline**

**~X~**

---

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Dinkey**

**Dinkey is a small  
locomotive**

**origin of Dinkey  
1840–50;**

**It used especially for  
hauling freight**

**logging,  
and shunting**

**The first known use of dinkey  
to refer to**

**a wee choo choo occurred  
in 1874,**

**around the same time that the  
adjective dinky**

**from which it is thought to  
have arisen,**

**began to be used to mean  
"overly or**

**unattractively  
small."**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*



## **Gale**

**This word is from mid  
16th century**

**Perhaps related to Old Norse  
galinn 'mad, frantic'.**

**Gale wind is stronger than  
a breeze**

**specifically a wind of  
28–55 knots**

**(50–102 km per hour)  
corresponding**

**to force numbers 7 to 10  
on the Beaufort scale.**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Aeolian**

**Aeolian is of or  
pertaining to**

**Aeolus the Greek god of the  
winds;**

**relating to or caused by the  
wind**

**the ancient Greek inhabitants  
of Aeolia.**

**Originated in  
1600,**

**"of the wind," from Latin  
Æolus**

**"god of the  
winds,"**

**from Greek Aiolos "lord of  
the winds,"**

**literally "the Rapid," or  
"the Changeable,"**

**from aiolos "quickly moving,"  
also**

**"changeful, shifting,  
varied"**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Dunkadoo**

**Dunkadoo is an old  
New England name**

**it's for the American  
Bittern**

**"Dunk-a-doo" is the sound  
the bird makes**

**from its secretive place  
.in the marsh.**

**It's a large North American  
marsh bird**

**(Scientific name : Botaurus  
lentiginosus)**

**that is related to the  
herons**

**It has a brown body dark gray  
outer wings**

**and a black stripe down each  
side of the neck.**

**Reference seen in Henry  
William Herbert**

**American Game in Its  
Seasons**

**(Charles Scribner,  
1853)**

**~X~**

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*